# DEATH OF JACKIE KENNEDY -NBC NIGHTLY NEWS REPORTS - MAY 1994

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xOhDoz6aSmY (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xOhDoz6aSmY)

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From May 1994 NBC Nightly News reports of the death of First Lady Jackie Kennedy.

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good evening it has happened with stunning swiftness the final hours of Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis one of the best known women of her time and most private the widow of a martyred president a widow a second time of a legendary Greek shipping tycoon always a model of sophistication style and the rich life now she is near death from cancer and her children friends and the Kennedy clan are gathering in New York NBC national correspondent Brian Williams is outside her Fifth Avenue apartment tonight Brian Tom the 64 year old former first lady in keeping with her wishes came home from the hospital to her apartment earlier today she was given the last rites of the Catholic Church she remains in grave condition reporters and photographers crowded the entrance to her Fifth Avenue apartment building with the first word that Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis had come home from the hospital her illness having advanced to a point where further treatment would do no good she was visited throughout the day by family members including her son John F Kennedy jr. she was diagnosed back in January with non-hodgkins lymphoma a form of cancer of the lymph system that damages the body's immune system doctors say it usually strikes older people in their 60s and 70s and that it's controllable if detected in time these are illnesses that when treated early and the type of non-hodgkins lymphoma is favorable can be cured and at the other extreme their illnesses that can be very aggressive and can cause a rapid death even with intensive therapy among American women she is perhaps the most photographed the most talked about and written about of her generation the subject of 22 books Jacqueline Bouvier Kennedy became first lady at the age of 31 the White House years were compared by many to Camelot as the nation watched the young family grow up the nation would later see her strength and courage in the days of

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strength and courage in the days of mourning following her husband's assassination in the years after the death of second husband aristotle onassis she devoted much of her time to her job as a book editor in New York last she hosted the president and the Clinton family for a cruise at Martha's Vineyard an outing that offered a rare glimpse of a woman who guards her privacy despite the constant curiosity of millions of Americans for over four decades today President Clinton said he has stayed in close touch with the former First Lady Hillary and I have have been in touch with with mrs. Onassis in the last several days and and are getting regular updates as she's been quite wonderful to my wife and to my daughter and to all of us in Des we're thinking about you praying for the public fascination in concern for Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis was in evidence today at the Kennedy Library outside Boston no new statements on her condition tonight she remains surrounded by loved ones in her 15 room apartment as she faces this latest stage in her five-month battle with cancer Brian what is the latest on the family and where they are at the moment John Kennedy jr. has been in and out in the afternoon hours as was Caroline Kennedy schlossberg Senator Edward Kennedy was here last night returned to Washington for a Senate hearing he was due back early this evening home drove all good evening Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis who led a life of great achievement and great tragedy in the most public and private way ends her life in much the same fashion there will be private funeral services

in New York Monday followed by burial at Arlington the site of the eternal flame alongside her husband and their two infants lost at Birth she died last night at 64 here's NBC's Brian Williams today John F Kennedy jr. spoke about the death of his mother last night at around

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death of his mother last night at around 10:15 my mother passed on she was surrounded by her friends and her family and her books and the people and the things that she loved and she did it in her own way and on her own terms and we all feel lucky for that now she's in God's hands death came following visits by family members and friends who had come to say goodbye to Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis the cancer that was discovered just five months ago had spread quickly almost immediately the now famous fifth avenue apartment building resembled a shrine hundreds came to see where she had lived and died where there will be a private wake tonight all my friends feel very bad today she's the most beautiful in New York and around the country front-page stories added to a palpable sense of national loss at the White House where her portrait as first lady hangs she was remembered by the President and mrs. Clinton even in the face of impossible tragedy she carried the grief of her family and our entire nation with a comp our that somehow reassured all the rest of us if she taught us anything it was to know the meaning of responsibility to one's family and to one's community her great gift of grace and style and dignity and heroism is an example that will live through the ages while millions of Americans today mourn the former first lady overseas the reaction to her death was extraordinary evidence of the effect her life had had it's a beautiful image I think it remains with us all of this woman who lived much sadness in her life and yet did it with

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sadness in her life and yet did it with a great deal of dignity we never saw Jackie Kennedy as a politician we saw her more as an icon of an icon of a certain age of elegance and and as a role model I mean this was in many ways the first outside of Hollywood the first American female role model for the rest of the world for a certain generation 30 shots inside that the big cancer had got her just seemed very young at the Kennedy Library outside Boston a chance for appreciation today visitors leaving messages in a book beneath her picture and taking stock of the loss back to that he's always been a fascination by people of that generation and people of my age that weren't really part of that it just seemed like a wonderful wonderful time in America losing a part of it late today the family confirmed Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis will be laid to rest on Monday at Arlington National Cemetery near where President Kennedy is buried Brian Williams NBC News New York Jackie that's how she was universally known almost from the beginning had a special place in the hearts and lives of those generations of American women who witnessed her coming of age NBC's Betty Rowling tonight on how that Jackie is remembered one of the reasons Jacqueline Onassis had such an impact on several generations of American women was the mix that she was incredibly glamorous on one hand a mom on the other she was classy early in the 1960 presidential campaign her husband's handlers worried that she was too classy but she was authentically classy and people loved her for it she was utterly feminine but betty Friedan the founder of the women's movement saw her as a feminist she was quite serious in her later career as a editor and publisher I knew writers that

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editor and publisher I knew writers that worked with her and she was no just she was not just a token I earned her loss I would have thought that Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis would have gotten a job a job that she actually went to and did and went to the Xerox machine she reinvented herself and kept up with the times the public never got enough of Jacqueline Onassis but it wasn't scandal they wanted in that sense as Richard Stolley her celebrity was unique the American people and especially American women held her in many ways to a higher standard than most celebrities and she never did pointed them nor did she ever let them get too near since the assassination of her husband she gave almost no interviews and for that especially now in this age of tell-all and sell all the public and even the press admired her more I have more respect for her for not talking to the press than I would have if she had talked to us and throughout her life

during the good times and the bad times Jacqueline Onassis was a woman of extraordinary culture and style she taught us further as we watched her from afar that the presence of style does not mean the absence of content Betty Wallen NBC News New York what is there about Jacqueline Bouvier Kennedy Onassis that has kept us so transfixed for so long several things I think first she was from another time in place the old money neighborhoods polo fields and hunt clubs the kind of girl featured in Life magazine out of reach to most young men unless they had the magic and the money of a John Kennedy and when she became first lady at age 31 it was a stunning transformation of that ill-defined role occupied as it had been my grandmother's with permanence and sensible evening dresses jackie was more regal than

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dresses jackie was more regal than certified royals more beautiful than most movie stars more stylish than anyone else in the room even those uncomfortable or unhappy with her heirs were impressed by her innate sense of grace her comportment at the time of the assassination and funeral was the stuff of legends if we had to go through this awful ordeal we felt in a way privileged to follow her lead which made the Onassis business all the more difficult to accept arrey Onassis seemed only to be about money we wanted Jackie to keep the flame what she wanted she would not say not even when she became a widow a second time when the stories of John Kennedy's extramarital activities began to emerge she began to regain public sympathy characteristically without encouraging it her lifelong cool and elegant style was not shaken not even by sensational assaults by authors and journalists instead she created a new intensely private New York life as a book editor and through it all she stayed publicly Pleasant never snapping at the ever-present photographers but never volunteering either and in this age of celebrity tell-all in 30 years the woman who could have told the most never told even the smallest secret in public about her husband and their time together she was not the girl next door and never pretended that she was she was her own woman without apology from the moment we met her until the day she died and we have known very few like her news reported by Brian Williams good evening after decades of private life and a private funeral Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis will be laid to rest on Monday

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Onassis will be laid to rest on Monday at a private ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery the President and mrs. Clinton said today they plan to be there as she is buried alongside her husband the 35th President of the United States assassinated when she was 34 her death this week at the age of 64 has Americans remembering looking back with admiration on her life even on the way she chose to die our report tonight from NBC is Sara James at the Kennedy gravesite in Arlington National Cemetery workers are preparing for Monday's solemn ceremony the former first lady will be buried here beside President Kennedy and two of their children she was remembered today by President Clinton she and President Kennedy made people believe that change for the better is possible the public service is a noble calling this was the former First Lady's Church st. Thomas More Church in New York City and today special prayers for her [Music] in a particular way or Jacqueline Kennedy she may be beautiful there was a special service in her memory at this church in Newport Rhode Island it was here that Jacqueline Bouvier married then Senator John Kennedy in 1953 her half-brother was there today well I was six years old at Jessie's wedding I heard her train in so many ways moments are frozen in time so you think of her as you did 30 years ago Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis lost her battle with lymphatic cancer but family members say they feel lucky she died on her own terms at home surrounded by those she loved she had signed a living will indicating she did not want extraordinary measures taken to prolong her life would you like a living well at choice and dying of wits it promotes living wills director and faith says

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living wills director and faith says calls have increased so that more people will want to fill them out once they hear that Jacqueline Onassis had won all 50 states now have living wills which include provisions for those with incurable or irreversible mental or physical conditions to refuse extraordinary measures such as cardiac

resuscitation mechanical respiration or tube feeding 69 year-old Julie leisure of New York City is one of millions of Americans who has signed a living will you go with dignity you don't call I mean like something just hooked up to a machine that's so cold and heartless and amongst strangers and in a strange place you're going in a nicer way a better way meantime on Fifth Avenue in New York City at the former first lady's apartment building the flowers keep coming spring bouquets sent by those who loved her from afar she was revered for the courage and dignity she showed in the face of adversity the last being cancer which claimed her life at the age of 64 Sara James NBC News New York Ning when John F Kennedy was elected president 34 years ago with his young wife Jacqueline at his side they were so young and so glamorous and so full of life it seemed that their time would go on forever both the day she was buried beside him at Arlington National Cemetery next to the eternal flame and that time seems very long ago NBC's Andrea Mitchell tonight on the funeral and burial of a woman who was so much a part of our contemporary history having led a nation in mourning 31 years ago Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis was herself mourn today as she was laid to rest alongside her martyred husband and their stillborn daughter and son Patrick who lived only three days nearby as well her beloved confidant brother-in-law Bobby Kennedy God gave her very great gifts and imposed upon her great burdens she

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and imposed upon her great burdens she bore them all with dignity and grace and uncommon common sense in the end she cared most about being a good mother to her children and the lives of Carolina and John leave no doubt that she was that and more Caroline and John jr. had planned every detail of today's farewell including the words spoken at a private funeral service in New York City three things came to mind over and over again and ultimately dictated our selections they were her love of words the bonds of home and family and her spirit of adventure Caroline reading memory of Cape Cod by Edna st. Vincent Millay we'll find you another beach like the beach at aura let me listen to the wind in the ash it sounds like surf on the shore I often think of what she said about Jack and December after he died they made him a legend when he would have preferred to be a man Jackie would have preferred to be just herself but the world insisted that she be a legend two less well known her natural gift for politics when the Clintons were about to arrive for a sale last summer with mrs. Onassis and her companion Maurice temples Minh she had this advice for Senator Kennedy Jackie turned to me and said Teddy you go down and greet the president but I said Maurice is already there and Jackie answered with a smile Teddy you do it Maurice isn't running for re-election finally Jacqueline Onassis returned for the last time to the city she had helped transform may the flame she lived so long ago Bern ever brighter here and

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long ago Bern ever brighter here and always brighter in our hearts god bless you friends farewell Andrea Mitchell NBC News Arlington National Cemetery there is great sadness but there are also great lessons in the passage of a public life it's a time after all of national reflection on our own lives individually and collectively the life is Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis the music is Ave Maria the voice is Jesse Norman [Music] the Lord is my shepherd I shall not want there shall be no more death or mourning wailing or pain for the old order has passed away and then during those four endless days in 1963 she held us

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endless days in 1963 she held us together as a family and a country in large part because of her we could grieve and then go on we are joined here today to bid farewell to this remarkable woman whose life will forever glow in the lives of her fellow Americans [Laughter] at Arlington National Cemetery today thousands lined up to pay their respects to Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis buried yesterday next to former President John F Kennedy her grave does not yet have a marker just the flowers cards and notes left today in her memory

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